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ROYAL ASIAT

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER.

A LARGELY and influentially signed memorial has been addressed to the management of the Tarkessur and East Indian Railways, praying for the opening of a new station at Dulla. The memorialists prove by calculation that the new station must be a source of profit, but they state that, as the shareholders already get 6½ to 7 per cent, they do not care for any more. We hope that such is not the case and that the prayer of the memorialists will be granted. The concession will be not only a great convenience to the travellers and residents of Antpur, Rajbalhat, Kristonagar, Dwarhatta, and several other adjacent villages, but will also cause a substantial increase in the earnings of the line.

THE *Indian Engineering* learns from the report on the progress made in the Kidderpore Dock Works up to the end of June, 1887, that the proportion that the work done up to date bears to the whole is not very great, and if no better progress were to be made for the future than has been achieved during the past year, the completion of the Docks would be a matter of many years; but if it be considered that work was first seriously begun during the past season, and that, with the exception of a short length of dock wall founded last year, not a brick was laid until late in March, and that for a considerable time the work was of an experimental nature, and very much hampered by want of sufficient waggons to remove the soil, and partial failure in the lime supply and a deficiency of appliances generally, which have now been rectified, the Superintending Engineer considers that the progress made during the last four months may be considered as most satisfactory, and he is fully satisfied that during next working season, at least three times as much brickwork will be done daily as was effected during the past. Further, it is contrary to expectation, that the work is not brought to a standstill by the rains, but that steady progress will be made from July to December, though not, of course, as rapid as what can be achieved from December to July. From December next, it is believed that it will be possible to average 23,000 cubic feet of brickwork per diem during the dry season, and 11,000 during the rains, giving a mean, for the whole year of 17,000, and if the year be taken as containing 300 working days, the annual outturn of brickwork will be 51 lakhs of cubic feet. But the balance of brickwork remaining to be done, including the Boat Canal, is not quite 150 lakhs, so there should be no difficulty in opening the Docks some time in 1891.

THE same journal has heard of an outburst of gas in Sanktoria, in one of the pits owned by the B. C. C. No serious mischief happened, as the occurrence was expected, and every precaution was taken to avoid a catastrophe. We believe that this is the only coal-pit in Bengal that has safety lamps in use, and it should be incidentally mentioned that the seam of coal is considered to be the deepest and best gas-making coal in India.

BORINGS are now being put down in the bed of the Damuda on the site selected by Mr. Way for the Bengal-Nagpore Railway bridge.

A CORRESPONDENT at Amirtsar sends to the *Bombay Gazette* the following account of some of M. Notovich's proceedings:—"M. Notovich certainly wants to see everything of India before he goes back to his own country. He and another foreigner arrived here this morning, and left for Lahore by the Bombay mail in the evening. We believe he intends visiting Cashmere, and will stop at Pindi on his way. During his stay here, he visited the Golden Temple and a large carpet manufactory, besides some other unimportant places. At the Golden Temple he gave, either as an offering or as a present, to the Pujari who showed him round, a small sum, and distributed a few annas amongst the poor. He then drove to the Fort, but did not go in, as the Baboo who was acting as guide represented that no one could enter without a pass. M. Notovich here made a note in a book, and returned to the hotel. Our Russian visitor rather anticipates matters. He said to the Baboo, 'The Punjabis will of course rise when the Russians attack the frontier—won't they?" The Punjabi replied, in language more bold than polite, 'Certainly that is not true. We are happy under British rule, and all that about mutiny is lie.' M. Notovich hereupon said, 'You don't know. You say, we won't rise, but when we come, you will all join us.' The guide did not carry on the conversation. If the Russians wish to imagine all sorts of nice things they may. The natives were not very much *fetched* with M. Notovich and say 'If all the Russians are like this Russe Sahib, they are not much.'"

TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER.

LAST year a trial was made at the Nagpore Experimental Farm, of preparing cotton seed for sowing by the use of sulphuric acid, as is often done in America. About two ounces of the acid are used to a pound of cotton seed, and the woolly fibres adhering to the seed are thus dissolved away, after which the seed is immersed in lime water to neutralise the acid. Another advantage of soaking the seed in the lime water is that the worthless seeds float to the top, and the sound ones are sent to the bottom. Four experiments were tried, in two of which the seeds had been prepared with acid, and and in the other in the ordinary way, while two of the plots were manured, and to the other no manure was applied. The result was, in the manured plots, largely in favour of the seeds treated with acid, but in the other two plots those prepared in the ordinary way had the advantage. The expriment, however, seems to be likely to prove of very little use, as the Director of Agriculture admits that the cost of sulphuric acid and the difficulty of procuring it would place it beyond the reach of the ordinary ryot. The same might be said of the manuring which it seems must follow the use of the acid.

A SPECIAL telegram from London, it seems an up-country paper that "a proposal is afoot, and is being well supported, for the construction of a broad gauge line of railway from Delhi *via* Rohtuk, Bhiwani, Bikaneer, and Jessulmere to Hyderabad and Kotree. This would be about six hundred miles in all, with a continuation through Kurnaul to Umballa and Kalka. This route saves one hundred and sixty miles in distance between the North-West and the seaboard, and four hundred miles on the present line of communication with Kurrachee *via* Lahore; and it is believed that it would also prove of great strategic value. The cost of making would be low, and traffic prospects are considered good."

THE Bill to amend the law relating to the Regulation of the Police, which Mr. Peile moved on Thursday for leave to introduce into the Viceroy's Council, is intended to refer chiefly to the Railway Police. At present, the employment of police officers is restricted to the Presidency or Province of the police establishment of which they are members, and this has been found to occasion much inconvenience, especially in the case of railways passing through territories under several administrations. The new Bill will empower Government to create a general police for districts embracing parts of two or more Provinces, and to enrol for service therein a special police force under special police authorities. It will also provide for the temporary employment of police officers out of their own districts.

THE amended convention between Great Britain and Siam, defining the powers of the International and Consular Courts at Chiengmai in regard to British subjects, contains some curious particulars of the methods of inquiry in the Siamese law courts. These include, among other things, the "use of ordeal by diving under water, or by walking through fire, &c., and investigation by means of flogging, the head screw, the thumb screw, and other means prescribed by the criminal procedure law."

THE preliminary arrangements in connection with the proposed improvements and public works at Rajapore, which is to be created a sub-division of the Howrah Division of Public Works and the acquiring of land for the excavation of a canal to reclaim all the low and marshy lands there, as well as for the construction of roads, &c., are now being made, we are told, and the works will commence shortly. The story has been so often told unavailingly that people have naturally grown distrustful of it.

THE Ameer is reported to have made good progress during the past summer on his strategical roads between Balkh and Cabul. They are said to be now practicable for artillery even over the mountain passes.

WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces arrives at Lucknow probably on the 3rd of November, and Allahabad on the 10th.

IT is stated that Sir W. W. Hunter has determined to devote the leisure of his retirement to a History of India. Will he prove to India what Macaulay did to England?

ACTING under medical advice, Sir John Gorst, Under-Secretary for India, has gone to Switzerland. SIR John does not come to India next cold weather as had been previously arranged.

THE Governor-General in Council is pleased to rule that any Civil Engineer of the Public Works Department who, on reaching the age of 50 years has not attained the rank of Superintending Engineer, will be liable to be called upon to retire provided, 1st, that no officer having less than 25 years' service to his credit for pension shall be called upon to retire under this order within two years of the present date; 2nd, that no officer having less than 20 years' service to his credit for pension shall be called upon to retire under this order within three years of the present date; 3rd, that an officer called upon to retire under this order shall be allowed to take any furlough admissible under the rules before his final retirement, subject to the condition of section 110, rule 9 A, Civil Pension Code, in regard to retirement on attaining the age of 55 years; this proviso to be in force for five years from the date of this Resolution. A military officer in the Public Works or Military Works Department, who, on reaching the age of 50 years, has not attained the rank of Superintending Engineer, will be liable to be called upon to vacate his appointment, provided that, before finally quitting the department under this order, he will be allowed to take any furlough admissible under the rules and allowances of the Public Works Department applicable to him. This last proviso is to be in force for five years from the date of this Resolution.

THE *Invalide Russe* states that Ayub Khan is at present at Ghazni.

PRINCE Bismarck has declared that Sinor Crispi and himself are in complete accord with regard to the Suez Canal question, and that as England and Italy had already come to an agreement on this point, Germany, England, and Italy will henceforth adopt uniformity in their policy in dealing with the matter.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has sanctioned, at the recommendation of the Forest Department, that 'Rungdo Thurbo,' a freehold of some 6,000 acres near the head of the Mechi River (the Nipal boundary), and also the leasehold known as 'The Grove,' on the Lebong spur, be reserved forests under Act VII. of 1878. Mr. William Lloyd, the proprietor, and Mr. G. F. Dodsley Flamstead, his Manager, and their forest guards are empowered to act under certain specified clauses of the aforesaid Act. The Deputy Commissioner of Darjiling and the Commissioner of Rajshahye are appointed respectively Forest Settlement Officer and Referee in case of appeals regarding boundaries and rights of and on those lands.

THE Committee of the Imperial Institute have published a memorandum in which it is stated that the total amount of subscriptions and donations received is £400,000. The Committee add that the assistance received from India and the Colonies has been most satisfactory. The memorandum says that the Committee intend to apply for a royal charter. The contract for the construction of the foundations of the building has been concluded.

AT the instance of the Government of the Panjab the Supreme Government will shortly consider whether any legal measures should be adopted for the preservation of young fish in the rivers of that province. The deterioration of fish in the Pudma and other large rivers makes some such measure desirable in Bengal also.

AT the last International Oriental Congress held at Vienna, the Aryan Branch of the Congress recommended that a systematic survey of the vernacular languages of India should be undertaken. Their suggestions were forwarded to the Government of India, with the result that Mr. G. A. Grierson, C. S., was requested through the Government of Bengal to prepare a paper treating exhaustively with them, and the *Englishman* understands that Mr. Grierson's proposals for dealing with the matter have since been submitted, and are now under consideration.

THURSDAY, 13TH OCTOBER.

THOSE of our readers who had ever been to Monghyr will be sorry to hear the death of Mr. H Dear of that station. He was a permanent and well-to-do resident of the place, whose liberal charities endeared him to all. One of the dilapidated gates of the historic fort—the one facing the bazar—has been suitably named after him as it was at his expense that it was thoroughly repaired. So keen were his sympathies with his native fellow subjects that he used to have the gate and other places illuminated in honor of the *Dewali*.

AT last Saturday's meeting of the Calcutta Town Council a proposal for extending the water-supply of the town and of the Suburbs, was discussed. Dr. Sanders brought forward a proposition for a series of experiments to be conducted in well-boring in different parts of the town so as to strike springs, the yield from which would materially add to the existing supply. It was mentioned that Dr. Warden had bored wells two inches in diameter and some forty to fifty feet deep, from which excellent spring water was obtained. It was pointed out, however, that the Engineer was of opinion that the cost of boring wells of any size would be something enormous, and that even if a bed of sand was reached and a clay bottom followed, that the supply from the sand formation would soon be exhausted. It was also pointed out that the low-lying plain of Bengal was not rich in springs, and that to obtain good water a depth of about 200 feet was necessary to be reached. It was also stated that Dr. Simpson was at present engaged in drawing up a report on this very subject, and in view of the submission of this report it was agreed to postpone the further consideration of the question.

BABU Gopal Lal Mitter, the Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, has obtained three months' leave, Mr. Cotton agreeing to perform his duties in addition to his own, pending the arrival of the Chairman. Mr. Cotton, however, goes away almost immediately on one week's leave of absence.

INQUIRIES are already being made, in accordance with the Government of Bengal's Resolution on the *Sir John Lawrence* inquiry, preliminary to the introduction of an improved system, for counting and controlling the number of passengers carried by the Chandbally steamers. Mr. Tute, Collector of Balasore, has visited Chandbally in order to make an investigation on the spot, and will report to Government as to what will be the best plan to suit local circumstances.

A HYDERABAD (*Deccan*) paper says :—"The booming of a Royal salute yesterday morning (Oct. 5) announced to all loyal subjects of H. H. the Nizam that another son was born to their Ruler. The new-born Prince comes opportunely to take the place of the one who was recently removed by death. We congratulate His Highness in obtaining one more assurance of the continuance of his princely house."

CHOLERA has appeared among the labourers on the public works now being carried out in the Peshin Valley.

THE Eurasians have established a settlement at Sausmond in Mysore, beside the one at Whitfields.

MR. W. E. WARD, Officiating Chief Commissioner of Assam, on being relieved by Mr. Fitzpatrick, who has just been appointed Chief Commissioner, will go to England on furlough for 15 months. Mr. Fitzpatrick is expected to take over charge of his new appointment about the 1st of November.

THE New Municipal Bill for Bombay aims at making the Chairman of the Corporation, almost independent of the Commissioners and subjecting him to the Government. Bombay is the only place of importance where a non-official and elected Chairman is allowed, and it is now proposed to take this cherished privilege away.

THE lion has been bearded in a remarkable manner. The Simla correspondent of an up-country paper says, that Babu D. Dutta, of Bengal, exhibited several of his works to the recent Fine Arts Exhibition of which one was entitled "India under British Government—Effects of Out-Distillery," and the other represented "Village Politicians against the Out-Distillery." It does not appear how these works were executed, but if in the right style they ought to convince our big officials of the ruinous havoc that the system is doing in Bengal. Under the auspices of the Indian Association some "group" photographs were to have been taken of drunken revelries and barbarities attendant upon the system.

FRIDAY, 14TH OCTOBER.

WE are glad to find that the general order directing that in future ball ammunition is not to remain in the possession of the men in barracks has been carried into effect. We had been insisting on this wholesome practice, for a long time but without avail. We shall now hear less of a drunken or jealous soldier shooting his comrade or a superior officer, or of running amok in his cantonment bazar. As for the apprehension of a contemporary that the susceptibility of Tommy Atkins will be wounded, and probably his efficiency lessened by this mark of disturst it is all bosh and silly sentimentalism. The ammunition will now be kept by the "Section Commander" in boxes under lock and key, and as a contemporary remarks, only on very rare occasions would a man find that obtaining ammunition from the box took any longer than taking it from his own pouch.

NEWS comes from Rangoon that two hundred dacoits have executed a well-planned attack by land and water on Yeaynangyoung, the centre of the earth-oil industry in Burma. On Friday 100 houses and 13 boats, belonging to Messrs. Finaly, Lleming and Company, were burned. The sepoys fired only one volley, owing to the great confusion.

THE Chief Commissioner of Burma has recommended the construction of a railway up the valley of the Moo River, which is closed in on the east and west by mountains.

A TELEGRAM has been received at Bombay, anouncing that quarantine has been withdrawn at both Suez and Aden on vessels arriving from Bombay.

HIS Highness the Maharaja of Mysore proposes to come to Calcutta to return the visit of his Excellency the Viceroy next cold weather.

THE total length of railways opened in India at the end of March 1887 was 13,002 miles as against 12,190 miles for the corresponding period of 1886, and the number of passengers carried 1,697 per mile as compared with 1,640. The number of accidents to trains, rolling stock, and permanent way shows an increase of 38, the increase being upon the Southern Mahratta, North-Western, Dacca, and Madras lines, this being chiefly due to trains running over cattle on the lines. In accidents to trains 47 passengers were injured, but none appear to have been killed, while among the servants of the Company four were killed and six injured. 28 passengers and two guards were injured on the Great Indian Peninsular Railway in a collision on the 11th of March last between a passenger train and an empty special train, and on the same day another collision took place only a few miles off on the same line between two goods trains, in which one driver was killed, and the rolling stock damaged to the extent of Rs. 30,000, owing to the driver of one train disregarding signals. On the East Indian line nine passengers were injured in a collision on the 15th of January between carriages and platforms, or falling when getting into or out of trains, or falling out of carriages during travelling. Altogether 28 of the servants of the railways and contractors were killed and 107 injured while working in connection with trains, and 41 persons were killed and 16 injured in crossing the lines. 13 persons were killed and 59 injured in yards, workshops &c., and no less than 152 passengers are reported to have met with their death while travelling, or at the stations, from causes unconnected with the working of the railways.

THE railway from Chaharjui to Samarcand is being rapidly pushed forward.

A MAN, sued for his newspaper-subscription at Melbourne, pleaded that, though he had received the paper, he had never ordered it. Asked the Judge : "If a baker left a bread at your door, and you took it and ate it, would you pay for that?" Defendant : "Certainly, your Honour ; but that is a different thing." His Honour : "Not at all. You eat the loaf and devour the newspaper." Verdict for amount claimed with costs. O most noble judge !

THE ricketty premises of the Calcutta Police Court are about to undergo thorough repairs once more when the courts will be temporarily located in the Town Hall.

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DR. Fowler Greenhill has been appointed to be a Commissioner of the town of Calcutta, *vice* Surgeon-Major R. C. Saunders, M. D.

SATURDAY, 15TH OCTOBER.

HER HIGHNESS the Maharanee of Cooch Behar is, we are glad to learn, a general favourite in London. The lady correspondent of a Bombay paper writes from London :—"The Maharani of Cooch Behar seems to have won all hearts at Eastbourne by her sweet graciousness. She gave away the prizes at the athletic sports that were held there in the Devonshire Park recently, and, though she did not speak to the happy recipients, she smiled in such a kindly way as she handed each his prize in the prettiest manner imaginable, that she quite fascinated all beholders. Such a charming example as this princess makes us wish we had greater opportunities of becoming acquainted with Indian ladies, with whom there is in England a growing interest and sympathy." Their Highnesses will stay in England for some time yet. But as medical opinion is against the English winter, their Highness's children will be shortly sent back to India.

THE material resources of the Panjab are about to be further developed. Mr. Townsend, the expert who has charge of the petroleum operations in Beluchistan, recently made some preliminary investigations in the Panjab, and reported so favourably on the prospects of finding petroleum there in useful and paying quantities that a Mr. Noble, who is an owner of petroleum works in Canada, has come forward with an offer to the Panjab Government to take up the work of prospecting on his own account. This gentleman's proposals have been referred to the Government of India.

THERE was a Cyclone at Madras on the 9th instant. The shipping in the roads was ordered to put to sea in the morning. Considerable damage was done to the cargo boats and pleasure yachts lying in the harbour.

IT has been reported to the Admiralty that H. M.'s Gunboat *Wasp*, attached to the China squadron, which left Singapore for Hongkong on the 10th of September, has not been heard of since. Loss of the ship *Earl of Jersy* with a large cargo of jute is reported off the coast of Chittagong. The crew were however fortunately saved.

ITALY, in making preparations to send a force to Abyssinia, does not meditate, it is said, engaging in a campaign against that country, but only proposes to occupy certain territory which Abyssinia unjustly lays claim to. A somewhat large force is being sent lest Abyssinia should initiate hostilities.

A BEHAR paper states that lands are being taken up on each side of the river for the defences of the Sone Bridge, and that it has been decided to erect defensive works at all the large bridges on railways in India as a part of the internal line of the defences of the country. Are internal defences of this somewhat fanciful description deemed now of greater importance than frontier works ?

THE land acquisition disputes about the Kidderpore docks are not yet at an end. Mr. Rampini will therefore be deputed as a special Judge to try these cases in the place of Mr. Charles now on furlough. This arrangement will obtain when Mr. Beveridge, Judge of the 24 Pergunnas, for whom Mr. Rampini is now officiating, returns from leave.

THE scandal, which has been gathering head in Paris for some time, has at last culminated in the arrest of General Capparel for selling decorations. In addition to the General other arrests have been made, indicating a state of great corruption in the French War Office and high places. Commenting on this, our contemporary of the *Englishman* indulges in a fling at republican institutions generally, forgetting that the sword and bayonet scandal of England has not yet been forgotten.

CLOSE upon the Jubilee festivities of England has followed the centinary celebration of the Americans. There were the customary gala doings attendant upon such an occasion, only with this difference that they were on the usual *American* scale. Mr. Gladstone was asked to represent England in the festivities as the mother country ; but the G. O. M. declined to do so as his hands were full with the Irish business and particularly as this singular honor to him would give occasion to unnecesary jealousey in the home circles. The latter allusion might possibly have been avoided, and it would have looked better on the whole. The festivities occupied the 15th, 16th, and 17th of September last and there were grand industrial and civic displays.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1887.

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

Mr. J. Dacosta, so well known to the people of India for his earnest and indefatigable endeavours to promote the political welfare of the natives of this country, has just sounded the alarm of an impending invasion of Afghanistan. In a letter to *Allen's Indian Mail*, he says:—

"The active preparations for a march on Kandahar, which have been going on in India, and the material increase simultaneously made in the numerical strength of the Indian Army, place beyond doubt the determination of our Government once more to invade Afghanistan; and recent events in that country seem of a nature likely to precipitate the movement. At the same time, we are without any authoritative declaration of the motive for which we are about to attack an unoffending neighbour, or the purpose which the projected war is intended to accomplish: nor has a voice been raised in Parliament to inquire into any such motive and purpose. And yet the policy which is being pursued towards Afghanistan is substantially the same as the policy initiated in 1876, which led to the war of 1878-80, and resulted in disaster and discomfiture."

The legitimacy of this inference has been questioned. It has been argued that the measures now in progress in the North-Western Frontiers are purely precautionary, and such as are necessary for the good of the country, and to represent them as preparations for an early or eventual invasion of Afghanistan is pessimistic, if not wicked. There is much logical force in this argument. It is undeniable that every Government is bound to do all and every thing in its power to keep itself ready prepared for possible emergencies; not to do so is a positive neglect of duty. And knowing that the risk of danger to the British Indian Empire is the greatest on the Afghan border, it would amount to a criminal neglect not to guard our gate with due diligence. In these days of sudden denouements and rapid political complications, the necessity for constant preparedness is imperative, and it would be wrong to find fault with our Government for the frontier defensive works it has taken in hand. It is a trite maxim to repeat that to be fully prepared for war is the best means of securing peace, and it is unfair to question the motives of our rulers. But the matter does not end there. Somehow or other preparedness doth often precipitate that which we most wish to avoid; and the circumstances which environ us now are such as to make the contingency of a war almost imminent. To quote the language of Mr. Dacosta:

"The Beaconsfield-Salisbury Cabinet, who initiated the policy which is now being pursued, declared that the object of their policy was to secure a "strong, friendly and independent Afghanistan" against a Russian invasion of India. That object was certainly not promoted, but was defeated by the late invasion, excepting inasmuch that the Afghans ultimately asserted their independence; but the war inflicted on us an amount of injury, the effects of which will long be felt. Besides the loss of military prestige which resulted from our failure in a war entered upon without the least provocation, we have entirely alienated the people of Afghanistan, imposed a heavy burden of taxation on our Indian subjects and evoked from the latter unequivocal expressions of disapprobation and discontent. In order to appreciate the gravity of these results, it is only necessary to remember that if Russia should ever determine on invading India the result would in no small degree be influenced by the attitude of the Afghan tribes, and the feelings which the Indian populations would entertain for the British Government."

Abdur Rahaman cannot single-handed afford to quarrel with either Russia or England; his home disturbances are now enough to keep him fully engaged. Were it not for the support he derives from the British Indian Government he would long ere this have ceased to rule his country, and our Government is bound for the sake of its own interests to uphold his reign at any cost. Were we to stop our liberal supplies to-day he would to-morrow range himself on the side of Russia, and Russia will at any moment receive him with open arms. But at the present juncture we have to deal with another factor, and that is Ayub Khan. He is a general favorite among the Afghans, which Abdur Rahaman is not, and his success at Maiwand has invested him with a *prestige* which will carry him a long way. It was to keep him out of the sphere of Afghan politics that our Government got him and his followers interned in Persia at a cost of over three lakhs of Rupees a year, and it was his well-known influence among his countrymen that made Russia court him in his place of exile. It may be all very well for Professor Vambery to denounce him—to say "that Ayub Khan acted with black ingratitude towards England, which provided for him a fat pension and which assisted him in bringing over his family and relatives from the east of Persia to Teheran;" but General Gordon tells quite another tale. His letter in the *Times* shows that the British Government greatly wronged the prince by expelling his father from the throne of Cabul, detaining him as a prisoner in India, and placing him under surveillance in Persia. Says the General:—"Yakub was accused of concealing letters from the Russian Government and entering into an alliance with the Maharaja of Kashmir to form a triple alliance. Where are these letters or proof of this intention? They do not exist. Yakub came out to Roberts of his own free will. He was imprisoned; it was nothing remarkable that he was visited by an Afghan leader. Roberts and Cavagnari made the treaty of Gandamak. It is absurd to say Yakub wanted a European Resident; it is against all reason to say he did. He was coerced into taking one. He was imprisoned, and a court of inquiry was held on him, composed of the President Macgregor, who was chief of the staff to the man who made the treaty by which Cavagnari went to Kabul, and who had imprisoned Yakub. This court of inquiry asked evidence concerning a man in prison which in the eyes of the Asiatics is equivalent to being already condemned. This court accumulated evidence utterly worthless in any court of justice, as will be seen if ever published. This court of inquiry found and sentenced him as guilty to exile. Was that their function? If the secret papers are published it would be seen that the despatches from the Kabulese chiefs were couched in fair terms. They did not want to fight the English; they wanted their Amir". Yes, an Afghan prince, burning with indignation for the dethronement and imprisonment of his father and his own exile from his native land and a principality which he was to inherit, is guilty of "black ingratitude" for not being thankful for the maintenance allowed him in his place of internment! But whatever that be, to quote the words of Professor Vambery, "now the fact that such an important factor in Central Asian politics has got the means of escape from a dearly paid and anxiously guarded custody cannot but be ascribed to the machinations of that very Power whose peaceful intentions and whose readiness to live in amicable neighbourhood with England were of late so much spoken of in official circles. The escape of Ayub Khan has certainly been weeks ago premeditated by Prince Dolgorouki." Again:—"Destiny, and still more Russian intrigue, has made Ayub years ago the personification of anti-English feelings, and supposing he would show readiness to change front and to renounce his former inclinations Russia will hardly allow such a change. She has been for years in search of a pretender to the Afghan throne; she must have one, and she will have one." And with such a pretender in the field Mr. Dacosta has not been a day too soon in apprehending a war in Afghanistan in which England will have to take a part. European politics may retard it for a short time, but certain it is that the struggle will have to be gone through at the cost of India, and that at no distant date.

THE NIZAM AS AN ADMINISTRATOR.

At a time when the public actions and State affairs of His Highness the Nizam are drawing considerable attention in India as well as in England, it must interest many to know exactly as to the stuff of which the young ruler of Hydrabad is made. He is, it would appear, no weakling of a prince disposed to lassitude and dread of red-tape which are such marked features of Oriental Feudatories and than which nothing better paves the way to ultimate ruin. Like the great Sir Salar Jang and his worthy son, His Highness is possessed of surprisingly excellent business habits, and is destined not only to maintain the State under his rulership in the forefront of Feudatory States which it already occupies, but to hand down his name to posterity as the model of a capable, willing and popular administrator. The environments of an Indian prince are not always the most advantageous to the development of intellectual faculties or the expansion of business habits. One in a score can rise above the sinister influence of selfish parasites and interested Foreign Office agency, the constant aim of which must be, all protestations of good intention notwithstanding, every possible warping of his feelings and faculties. Natural ability to administer their States successfully is wanting in few of our Princes, and if they are not always found up to the mark it is chiefly because they are not expected nor desired to be. Capacity to propose, or return thanks for a toast, or play a game of billiards or lawn-tennis, and an unlimited supply of resources for flirtation is generally regarded as the *acme* of all the education they need have, and when that is all that is wanted and expected of them, it is no wonder that they turn out no better than they do. The Rajkumar Colleges which are maintained in some parts of the country seem to import no better training, and the public certainly have little reason to think that their products may be regarded as models of excellence either as men or as administrators. The system of which they are the outcome is wholly responsible for the shortcomings, and it is unreasonable of Government to complain when to its own action is due the fruit which results. It is therefore most gratifying that so important a State as Hyderabad should be one of the few brilliant exceptions to the rule, and it is to be hoped that the example set by His Highness the Nizam as regards his capacity and will for business will stimulate the energies of some sluggards of rulers whom the least show of papers and accounts scare away.

It will be in the memory of the reader that the unfortunate differences of the Nizam with his late Minister Nawab Salar Jang led to the direct assumption of all State business by His Highness. The Ministerial interregnum, so to speak, continued from the 4th of April 1887, the date of Sir Salar Jang's "departure on leave" as it is gracefully called, to the 26th of July following, when Nawab Bashir-Uddowlah Asman Jah, the present Minister, assumed charge of his office. During these three months the work of administration was under the direct and personal supervision of His Highness, and the various Secretaries had to submit to him from time to time all papers requiring in the ordinary course the orders of the Minister, and to attend personally when required. After Sir Salar Jang's resignation the administrative work continued to be carried on as before. The work was carried on by all the Secretaries, in accordance with and under His Highness' immediate orders; and all papers submitted by them were disposed of with a promptitude, some idea of which may be formed from the fact that, though orders used often to be issued demi-officially or on the very papers submitted, yet the number of official communications from His Highness' Secretary came up to 2,743, giving an average of 731 per mensem. Every petition presented even by the meanest subject was also received by His Highness' Secretary, and after enquiry finally disposed of under His Highness' orders, the number of the petitions thus received being above 2,500. The broad principles as well as the details connected with every Department received His Highness' attention, and led sometimes to the issue of general directions. The necessity of a supervision, closer than had heretofore been exercised, of the work done by the Main-ul-Mahams and the Secretaries to the Government soon became apparent to His Highness. Orders were accordingly issued directing the submission at the end of each month of statements showing the cases and references pending disposal in the Secreta-

riats, and enjoining the Political and Financial Secretary to make a note on the Weekly Diaries of Main-ul-Mahams, submitted through his office, of any points that might appear to require His Highness' special notice. The orders were iterated when His Highness, finding from an examination of some of the Diaries of the Judicial Department, that great delay took place in the disposal of work, issued strict orders for the proper preparation and punctual submission of the Diaries, with a note therein of the reasons of the delay in every case, in which papers might be kept longer than one week in the Secretary's Office or than four days by the Main-ul-Maham. These Diaries always received His Highness' special attention, the orders passed thereon not only leading occasionally to the avoidance of individual errors in practice, but to the enunciation of general principles which cannot fail to do good in improving the general quality of the work disposed of by subordinate officers. Long delays in the disposal of work also became less frequent; all the officers, being aware of their work coming under His Highness' immediate observation, exerting themselves with unusual activity, with the result that a very considerable quantity of work was gone through in a short period. On account of the greater authority which His Highness' orders naturally carry, almost all the old pending cases, in which the delay was due to obstruction or resistance by men of influence were settled, and a great many old grievances redressed. There was not a single Department which did not feel the deep impress of His Highness' care and which was not left at the end more efficient than it had been ever before. The details of the work done in each of the Departments are noticed separately in an interesting note issued by the Political Department of the State under the signature of His Highness' Private Secretary.

We are unable to pursue in detail the work done in the course of the three short months under His Highness' personal supervision. But the result shown is certainly commendable and speaks highly of the prompt business capabilities of the Nizam and the willing and loyal aid lent by his subordinates in the different departments. The finances looked up, and some of the old standing liabilities were settled and some addition was also made to the income of the State. General reforms relating to the Public Service and Treasury accounts were effected, and various miscellaneous works of importance were undertaken for the encouragement of local industries. The Hyderabad Spinning and Weaving Mills Company was exempted from payment of customs duty on raw cotton imported by it during the continuance of that privilege to the Goolburgah Company. The Railway Department, mining, forests and the Postal Departments all were in a prosperous condition. Sanitation of the capital was carefully looked after, and the authority of judicial tribunals was properly strengthened. To improve the Service, the salaries of of the puisne Judges of the High Court drawing less than Rs. 1,200 per mensem were raised to that amount, and on a proposal of the Political and Financial Secretary, officers of their position were forbidden from receiving complimentary addresses without the special permission of His Highness. An increase in salary was sanctioned for the appointment of the High Court Registrar in order to secure a properly qualified person for it, and the appointment of an additional Assistant Registrar and of a Government pleader was also allowed. One thing strikes the reader as very singular as he goes through the memorandum. The best offices in the State seem to be a European monopoly, at least so far as appears from the officers named in the Memo. In one respect, however, Hyderabad, a *native* State as it is, showed greater improvement than even the civilized paramount power. Police officials were declared ineligible for the exercise of judicial powers, a concession which the most strenuous agitation in British India for the separation of the executive from judicial service has not yet been able to obtain. Jail, Police, Revenue, Medical, Military and Public Works Administrations were all satisfactory, and altogether a good three months' work, of which any hard-working Minister or Secretary might well be proud, is shown in the paper before us. We welcome the paper as a practical demonstration of the undoubted capability of some at least of our Feudatory Princes for the administration of their own States, without the intervention of the Foreign Office, and as a valued assertion that the machinery of Government may go on unimpeded under their own personal supervision, though at times recalcitrant ministers may do their best to put obstacles in their way. We have written this on the testimony of the memorandum, the good faith of which we have no reason to doubt.

THE INDIAN BUDGET IN PARLIAMENT.

The Indian Budget was presented to the House of Commons on the evening of the 9th ultimo, or exactly a week before the prorogation of Parliament. The Under-Secretary's statement of the financial transactions and position of Her Majesty's Indian Empire—the brightest jewel in the British diadem—was made to empty benches during the closing hours of an unusually protracted and weary session. It seems useless to regret that the Indian Budget should, year after year, be brought forward at a date when it is impossible for Parliament to give due attention to it. Each year brings with it fresh protests and promises of improvement, but all to no purpose. In this respect there is not the slightest difference between the Conservatives and the Liberals. This year the practice of introducing the Indian Budget at the fag end of the session, when it is hopeless to interest the House in it, was protested against with more than usual vehemence. On the motion for going into Committee on the East Indian Revenue Accounts, Mr. Charles Bradlaugh strongly urged that it was not right to leave to the last moment of the session the only opportunity that was afforded to Parliament of considering the wishes and grievances of 200 millions of people whom England has undertaken to rule in India. He pertinently observed that the exercise of any Parliamentary control over the affairs of India was impossible when the Indian Budget figured upon the paper as the eighth order upon one of the last days of an expiring session. Most of the hon'ble members who took part in the debate agreed with Mr. Bradlaugh on this point. Mr. Reid made some remarks upon the late period of the session at which the Indian Financial statement had been made. Mr. Hunbury told the House that both among Conservative and Liberal constituencies there was a very strong feeling that the Budget ought to be discussed at an earlier period of the session. Mr. Grimley pointed out that it was extremely difficult during the closing hours of the session to get an audience on Indian topics. But all these expressions of opinion were of little practical use. Sir John Gorst frankly told the protesting members that they were greatly mistaken if they thought that their remarks upon the late period of the session at which the Indian Budget had been taken would produce any effect. He said:—"The regret which the hon'ble members had expressed with regard to the late period of the session at which the affairs of India had come up for discussion was shared by the Government and those who sat on the Ministerial side of the House. He believed every one would be glad, if it were possible, to bring the affairs of India under the consideration of the House at a time when more members were present and when greater interest could be taken in the matter. Although many promises to introduce the Indian Financial statement earlier in the session had been made, no Government had yet succeeded in fulfilling those promises, and, ever since he had a seat in the House, the Indian Budget had been one of the incidents of the session that had immediately preceded the prorogation." It must be admitted that Sir John Gorst spoke nothing but the plain truth. It is hard enough at any time to induce any portion of the House of Commons to give due attention to Indian questions, more particularly to Indian Finances; but during the closing hours of an unusually protracted and weary session the task is utterly impossible. This state of things must continue until the British public is awakened to a sense of its duties and responbilities towards the teeming and voiceless millions of India.

With a view to interest the hon'ble members in the subject, Sir John Gorst had circulated among them a memorandum for their information. Although the object which he had in view in adopting this course was not attained, it lightened his task considerably. The statement which Sir John Gorst made to the House was unusually brief. He had, of course, to deal with the figures of three years, and as might have been expected, he took a *couleur de rose* view of Indian finances. He attempted to show that the condition of the finances of India is not quite so bad as the figures would lead one at first to suppose. The deficit for 1885-86 is put down in the Budget at nearly 3 crores of rupees; but Sir John Gorst contended that it is not an actual deficit. The process of reasoning by which he arrived at this conclusion does not bear examination. He told the House that 68 lakhs had been spent in the reduction of debt, 59 lakhs in the construction of protective railways, 78 lakhs in the construction of protective irrigation works—making a total of about a crore and-a-half, which had been applied either to reduction of debt or increasing the investments of the Government of India. Well, Sir John Gorst should have known that the outlay on protective public works cannot be regarded in the light of an investment. These works will never prove remunerative or pay the interest on the capital spent on them. In many cases they will not even earn enough to defray their working expenses. The Under-Secretary, with all his anxiety to make out that the finances of India are in a satisfactory condition, could not deny that Upper Burma is a very serious drain on the public exchequer. He was driven by the very force of facts to admit that financially the newly-annexed province has been so far a disappointment. In the Budget Estimate for 1886-87 the expenditure for Upper Burma was put down at 73½ lakhs and the revenue at 66½ lakhs, showing a small net charge. When this estimate was put forward we ventured to predict that it would never be realised, and the event showed that we were no false prophets. The estimates, indeed, proved wrong on both sides of the account. The revised estimate for 1886-87 shows a net charge of a crore and three-quarters, and the Budget for 1887-88 gives a net charge of a little more than that sum. Sir John Gorst said:—"The land revenue yielded only half what was expected, and the charges for police and for army and marine services were enormously in excess of anything estimated. I hope that although the estimate this year is very much less favourable than last year, it will, at all events, be nearer the truth when the revised estimates come to be considered. The estimate is that there will be a deficit in Burma of one crore and 77½ lakhs I have pointed out since the statement was circulated that telegrams have been received from India showing that there will be 30 lakhs spent on the army and a probable addition of 10 lakhs in housing the troops, amounting altogether to 40 lakhs which will swell the estimated deficit to 2 crores and 17 lakhs. * * * * Although I hope that the anticipations of the Indian Government may be realised, and that at no very remote future, Burma, instead of being a burden, may be able financially to pay its own way, and even be a source of profit, yet some time must elapse before that consummation is brought about." For a long time to come Upper Burma will be a serious drain on the finances of India. It has already cost the Indian taxpayer no less than four crores of rupees, and there is no knowing when it will financially pay its way. Sir John Gorst, of course, urged that the Indian Railways are paying concerns; but the misfortune is, that the Government of India, instead of making a profit, is incurring a large and increasing annual charge, which in 1884-85 amounted to three-quarters of a crore, and in 1886-87 to a crore and-a-half; while the Budget Estimate for the current year is a crore and 59 lakhs. In the teeth of these figures we are often assured by enthusiastic advocates of railway extension in India that Indian railways are a profitable investment.

In the concluding part of his speech Sir John Gorst made an attempt to show that the burden of taxation on the people of India is very light.

He told the House the amount of taxation is not 2s. per head, aid compared it with the incidence in England, which amounts to 50 shillings per head. These figures, he contended, would prove to demonstration "that the taxation in India is a very light one at the present moment." We need hardly tell the reader that Sir John Gorst, in speaking of the incidence of taxation in India, has adopted the view prevalent in Anglo-Indian Officialdom that the land revenue and the opium revenue should not be regarded as taxation. We showed in a recent issue that this view is utterly unsound. The theory that the land revenue and the opium revenue of India do not represent taxation proper was first propounded by the late Mr. James Wilson in order to justify the imposition of an income-tax upon the people of India. That this theory is quite untenable has been proved to demonstration by Mr. H. E. Sullivan, late of the Madras Civil Service, in his able Minute of dissent appended to Part II of the Report of the Famine Commission. As we discussed this question the other day we need not repeat it here. Sir John Gorst and those who think with him, should bear in mind that in the matter of taxation there can be no comparison whatever between rich England and poor India. Judged by the English standard, the taxation of India would no doubt seem to be very light. A few shillings a year may be a trifle to an English workman; but it is a vast sum to the people of India whose annual earnings have been estimated at Rs. 27 per head. The late lamented Mr. Fawcett showed that England, in proportion to her population, is 56 times as rich as India—a fact which we commend to Sir John Gorst and his friends. As we have already exceeded the limits of a single article, we will notice in our next issue the discussion which followed Sir John Gorst's statement.

SANCTITY AND INDISSOLUBILITY OF MARRIAGE.

For the purposes of Nature no marriage is necessary. Animals live and thrive without any marriage; so did man in his primitive state. Instinct, love, affection, and passion then sufficed by themselves to provide the necessary cement, and nothing more was wanted. In some of the lower animals they gave such permanency to attachment between the sexes, that to this day the dove and the pigeon afford to the poet the highest type of conjugal fidelity. Among human beings, however, marriage soon became a necessity, as much for decency and propriety as for the regulation of inheritance of property. In fact it came as the protest of civilization against barbarity, of humanity against animality. The attempt then was to endow it with the highest sanctity and permanency possible, and nothing was left undone that human ingenuity could devise to make it indissoluble. The Mosaic dispensation got up the tradition of the 'left rib,' and the later Christian creed inculcated the doctrine of divine bond. In reply to the question of the Pharisees, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus said, "Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." The Hindus had no such elegant and expressive conceit as the 'left rib' to convey the idea of unity produced by marriage; but they openly declared marriage to be a holy sacrament, and the wife to be one-half of the husband. Accordingly, all their religious rites and ceremonies were so ordained as to give high prominence to the feminine half. Other ancient systems of religion, likewise, recognized the sanctity of marriage, and tried to secure for it the most rigid permanence. Indeed, the idea of marriage then was so intimately associated with sanctity and permanency that then the word marriage alone sufficed to comprehend the full force of the epithets, and the epithets were never used, as they would appear tautological. The prevailing idea everywhere then was how to emphasize the distinction between holy matrimony and mere animal instinct, and not to do any thing that might in any way abate its binding character. Muhammad was, perhaps, the first great lawgiver who destroyed the sacramental sanctity of marriage by reducing it to the level of a civil contract, revocable under the penalty of a moderate damage at the sweet will of the husband. In Europe an amorous priest and a lecherous king, without openly disowning the Bible, devised the scheme of absolute divorce permitting a second marriage. This new scheme has since attained wide currency, and the restrictions which were originally laid down to prevent a too free recourse to it have been of late to a great extent removed. The English law now says, let Justice Hannen put asunder what God hath joined together. In some parts of Europe, particularly in Transylvania, 'disparity of temper' is now admitted to be a valid ground for the dissolution of the marital tie, and that practically amounts to the abrogation of marriage as a sacrament or holy bond. No one wishes to drop a husband or a wife until he or she is tired of the contract, and if mere 'disparity of temper' be a sufficient plea for it, there would remain no distinction between a religious marriage and a marriage *a la St. Jacques*. It becomes a wedlock in which the parties are each provided with a latch-key. Those who preach the doctrine of Affinity or Free Love, have gone a step further, and advocate what in reality must be the same as pure animality. Even as is the case with our horses and dogs and goats, so must be the case with human beings. It should be borne in mind that the different later changes have followed the introduction of divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*. That is the axe which has cut the root of marriage, and it is this axe which our 'social Reformers' are trying to put into general use for the extirpation of holy matrimony. Atheists and Agnostics have already got it introduced into the Civil Marriage Act, and the advanced Brahmyas have provision made for it in the Brahmya marriage law. In regard to them the idea of sanctity and indissolubility of marriage has been totally abandoned. They live not in the bond of holy matrimony, but by mutual contract registered by a Government officer,—not under a sacrament sealed in the name of God in the presence of a minister of religion, but under a contract which may be set aside at any time. And this is what they desire should be forced *vi et armis* on the Hindu population of India. As a matter of personal gratification and convenience there are doubtless many advantages to commend it to the carnally disposed. A termagant shrew, a sickly woman, one who has lost her youth and beauty, may be easily set aside for an attractive creature, and the change may be resorted to as often as may be desirable. At present, under the Hindu law, this cannot be done without trouble and expense. The first wife, even when blinded of both eyes and bed-ridden, must be maintained for life, and freedom of action on the part of the husband is thereby very much hampered. A good divorce law, coming down to 'disparity of temper,' would remove all difficulties, and make domestic life perfectly free and easy, and as man in making laws has always borne his own benefit foremost in mind, such a consummation may be easily attained. But the question remains: would such a law be a blessing to society at large, and be fair to the feminine portion of humanity? As human society is now constituted, women are more or less dependant on men, and must continue so for a long time to come. The cares of maternity will always tell against them in the race of rivalry against men, and can it be to the interest of woman to be legally subject to divorce at the will of man—to be cast on the wide world to fight the battle of life when they are least able to do so effectually? Doubtless humanity will intervene—affection will take the place of law, and afford, as far as it can, that protection which the present law provides. But humanity, whether written with a big or a small—h, is a poor substitute for the mandates of a law promulgated in the name of God. Anyhow as the time is far distant when by itself humanity will supersede the Penal Code, it is necessary in the meanwhile to have something more sure, certain and effective for the used-up women of the country. The much abused Hindu law provides for the support, comfort and convenience of widows by depriving them of the liberty of sexual indulgence. Our 'Reformers' propose to grant them liberty for that indulgence and deprive them for the rest of their lives of support, protection and good treatment which they could reasonably calculate upon from the relatives of their defunct husbands. We leave our readers to decide who are the most humane. Our remarks apply, of course, only to the propertied, the respectable, the genteel classes or *Bhadraloks* of our community, leaving the indigent lower classes entirely out of consideration. For them the 'Reformers' propose no help, and no help can be provided which would be adequate for them.

It might be argued that the 'Reformers' do not at present seek divorce for 'disparity of temper,' but want it only for cases of non-consensual marriage, such as that of Rukhma Bai. But this would amount to a mere logical trick. In a country where non-consensual marriage is the rule, the prayer refers to the whole community, and not to a small section of it, and any law passed on the subject must apply to the whole and not to a part; therefore the question must be faced in its entirety. 'Disparity of temper' is not due exclusively to non-consensual marriage; it is a more fruitful cause of desertion in countries where consensual marriage is the rule than in non-consensual India, and the necessity for divorce there is much more frequent and urgent than amongst us. Nor is the reason for this far to seek. Where consent is permitted in the first instance, the liberty to exercise the right to revoke that consent becomes a matter of course. We see it every day in India. The Hindus have current among them both the consensual and the non-consensual forms of marriage, and have had them ever since they became a civilized nation; and their experience is that the former is greatly inferior to the latter. The former is called *Gandharva Vivaha*, and the only ceremony necessary for its celebration is the exchange of garlands by the bride-groom and the bride, just the same which takes place in a Progressive Brahmya marriage, differing only in not having a subsequent entry in a marriage register. One form of it was the *Svayambara*, which was limited to only a few cases of martial tournament. In the present day we have two forms of *Gandharva vivaha* current. In the case of a spinster it is ordinarily called *Phulbiya*, and in that of a widow *Sagai*. Both these forms are held in low repute amongst us. Both are strictly and thoroughly consensual; but they result much more frequently in 'disparity of temper' and desertion, than non-consensual marriages ever do. To court consensual marriage, therefore, in our society is to invite frequent desertion and divorce. Our 'Reformers' may delight in *Phulbiya* marriage, or *Sagai* contracts; but they should not shut their eyes to their consequences. Nor are they incident to our climate only. In Europe *Sagai* marriages are not always so harmonious as first marriages. True, that when such marriages become more popular in this country than what they are at present, the ratio of desertions may be less; but the period of transition will be long and painful. In England, *Sagai* marriages have not yet risen to the same rank of respectability as first marriages. As for marriages of divorcees the feeling is so strong in England about its being unholy that Parliament has provided in the last Marriage Act that any minister of the Church may decline to solemnise them. It shows that four centuries have not sufficed to efface the repugnance of society to that form of union, and the question may fairly be asked, can Hindu divorcees hope to fare better during the next five hundred years, even though they be backed by Messrs. Malabari, Raghunath Rao and Co.? To our mind the attempt is to legalise concubinage, and that with scant hope of immediate or early success. Our conviction is that Hindu widows of the higher classes are, except in the matter of animal gratification, better off now than they can be under a law of *Sagai* marriage revocable at pleasure. We hold that to abate the sanctity and indissolubility of marriage is to promote immorality. We may be mistaken in our

opinion and conviction, but after the most diligent enquiry and careful consideration of the subject we have seen nothing yet to justify a change of opinion.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE Steamer *Ascalon* from Jeddah with a cargo of salt ran ashore near Galle on the 12th instant. Her cargo is being discharged. The Steamer will probably be got off.

THERE was a riot of some magnitude at Mitchlestown in which the Police fired on the mob and killed several people. A Coroner's inquest has been held on the bodies of the persons killed by the firing of the police. A verdict of wilful murder was recorded against the Inspector and five constables. There have been a continuous series of demonstrations among the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, London. On the 12th about one thousand persons assembled there, and after menacing speeches they marched through the streets to the Mansion House, a black banner bearing the inscription 'bread or work' being borne at the head of the procession. More demonstrations of a menacing character were held on the 14th instant.

IT IS said to be probable that Mr. A. C. Tupp, at present Accountant-General in the North-West Provinces and Oudh, will be appointed Chief Secretary to the local Government when Sir A. Colvin assumes the reins of office. A better selection could not easily be made.

THE Bongong and Phoolbari accidents on the E. B. State Railway have been followed by one on the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. A trolly ridden by Mr. Prestage, among others, came in collision with the mail train and the passengers of the trolly were thrown off the vehicle. The brakesman was seriously injured, but the others escaped with slight bruises. Another accident was narrowly escaped lately between Arranghata and Alumdanga. These accidents are becoming disagreably frequent and there ought to be some means of stopping them. There was a miraculous escape last week on the E. B. Railway. A gentleman's child, 6 years old, accidentally slipped through an open door while the train was in motion and was given up for lost. The distracted parent's joy was keen and his gratitude intense when shortly afterwards the guard of a goods train following the passenger train, brought the child up safe and delivered it to him hale and hearty.

THE military decoration scandals of France, which we have noticed elsewhere, have culminated in the arrest of General Boulanger. General Caffarel, who was primarily concerned in them has been compelled by the Military Council to retire for dishonorable conduct in connection with the sale of the decorations. General Boulanger stated to a newspaper reporter that the Government were aiming at himself in the action that had been taken against General Caffarel. An explanation was demanded of him and on his admitting the truth of the statement the General was, by the order of General Ferron, the Minister of War, placed under close arrest. He will have to undergo this punishment for one month, the Cabinet deciding later on whether he shall be entirely deprived of his command.

THERE is fresh news about Maharaja Dulip Sing this week; but we confess it has little appearance of truth about it. Reuter telegraphs from London that "a proclamation, believed to be the joint production of Dhulip Singh and Djemeleddin, has been printed in Paris for circulation throughout India, calling on the natives to revolt against British rule." Djemeleddin is a Turkish adventurer who knows and talks sixteen European and Asiatic languages, and was in India 4 years ago. The Maharaja picked him up at Paris, we are told, and he has ever since continued with His Highness as counsellor and interpreter. However much the Maharaja may have been unsettled by the many wrongs heaped upon him, we cannot yet believe him to be capable of such stark madness. His counsellor, if he had ever been to India, as we are told he was, must have known that such an absurd attempt is not worth any body's while, however much the Maharaja himself may be ignorant about the true Indian feeling towards the British Government, which is one of unalloyed devotion and implict confidence. But is it not likely that Reuter's agent has mistaken the silly letter we noticed last week for what he calls a proclamation? The letter, though dated Moscow, bears the postal seal of Paris only and may have been despatched from that place. Some suggest that both the letter and the so-called proclamation are forgeries.

BABU Barodadas Bose, of the Subordinate Executive service, has brought out a cheap and useful compendium of the newly enacted Punchayet and Chowkidari law of Bengal. As an intelligent and zealous member of the service he has had opportunities of watching the operation of the law the initiation of which evoked so much just public opposition, and he has done well to bring its provisions to the notice of the backward population of the mufassil, any of whose body may be called on to perform Panchayet duties, in an intelligible shape. The author had compiled a more elaborate work based on the Act of 1878, but on its amendment in 1886 it was advised by some district Magistrate to reduce it to an easy narrative form, which is sure to be more acceptable to those for whose benefit it is intended.

WE are glad to learn that the native Civilian, who, we said in our last issue, substituted his ordinary European costume for his mourning garb to avoid being turned out of a first class carriage to make room for a "gentleman," was guilty of no such cowardice. On the contrary he manfully asserted his right to travel in the first class in the costume in which he was and was left in triumphant possession of the compartment, the European who had tried to oust him having betaken himself, to some other compartment. That was as it should have been and we regret we were led to believe that the case was otherwise.

OUR reforming brother of the *Indian Spectator* has made a confession of faith. He says: 'philosophic proof may be good enough for philosophers. But we go in for Butler's golden maxim —"probability is the very guide of life."' He kicks Archbishop Whateley and his syllogisms off from their pedestal, and consecrates thereon Butler and his Analogy. Poor Bacon and his philosophic induction which forms the groundwork of modern science suffer the same fate. "Probability"—"practical probability" is the new dispensation, and woe be to him who looks for any thing more substantial. This is good. It relieves us of the trouble of hunting for inductive proofs when arguing with our brother. In private company no man is a greater bore than the wretch who is ever crying for the 'why' and the 'wherefore'; and in polemics such a man is best silenced by the canon of 'practical probability.' Some practical difficulty might at times arise under this canon. For instance, when the Hindus, aided by practical probability and ocular demonstration, believe the spots on the moon to be due to Scynthia having a hare on her lap, and some Europeans imagine with the same aid that it is not a hare but a pet cat with which the goddess is toying, who is to decide which probability is to have precedence? In matters sublunary, when, for our sins of a former life, we happen to differ from our ardent 'Reformer,' who is to act the umpire between us? We would both appeal to the canon of 'practical probability', but that canon, like a cannon without powder and shot, would prove utterly useless. Should we then resort to the *argumentum bacculinum*?

Strong in his Butler, our brother cites the Sikhs and the Swiss for our confusion. He says: 'the Sikhs were lowlanders and the Afghans highlanders, yet the former proved stronger than the latter. The Swiss lived on their mountains, and yet did not the men of the plains beat them several times?' On the strength of 'practical probability' we could say that as the Sikhs marry early, like the Bengalis, they are stronger than the Afghans who marry comparatively late, but we won't, as that would involve a begging of the question. We would recal to the mind of our friend the story of Jack the giant-killer. Even as the little boy, with extraneous aid, became more powerful than the giant, so did the Sikhs with the artillery of French officers in their pay. The Swiss difficulty may be solved in a similar way. Even as Gulliver was taken prisoner by the army of Liliput, so were the Swiss. The disparity of numbers told.

Our brother next asks: has our philosophic friend read his scientific Darwin's "Animals under Domestication"? We regret we cannot repel the soft impeachment. We are aware of the fact mentioned there, 'that a strong race can be produced out of a strong couple.' The fact is patent to us in English race-horses. But we believe the most important element in it is 'thorough breeding.' The slightest admixture of impure blood spoils the experiment. For instance, the descendants of Gustasp mixing with Guzrati women, never poduced a Behramgour; nor have the descendants of Vasco da Gama and his suite given us true Spaniards in Goa,

THE opening night at the Emerald Theatre on Saturday before last was one of great *eclat*. The report of lavish expenditure of the patron, Babu Gopal Lal Seal, on the dresses, scenery and stage appurtenances in general had naturally raised great expectations, and a vast concourse of people began to gather on the grounds, beautifully illumined with electric light, from an early hour in the evening. Many of them, however, had to be refused admission for want of accommodation including some who had previously engaged seats. The pavilion, which was literally crammed, was tastefully decorated, the auditorium fitted up with due regard to the comfort and convenience of the audience, and the procenium was thoroughly renovated. The drop-scene and indeed almost all the scenes used on the occasion were well painted, and so far as the 'property man' was concerned nothing was left to be desired. The dresses were all gorgeous as they were costly, and admirably suited to the different characters they were intended for. Babu Kedar Nath Choudhuri's new and historical drama entitled the *Exile of the Pandavas* was the peice selected for the evening, and there was some spirited acting which elicited general applause. The parts of *Yudisthira*, *Dhritarastra*, *Sakuni*, *Bikarna*, *Draupadi*, *Bhanumati* and *Kunti* were well sustained, and the acting of the old woman introduced towards the end of the play was very natural; some of the songs also were good. There is, however, scope for improvement in the acting of some of the other actors, and it would be a material advantage if the play whose tedious length is apt to weary out the spectator's patience, were curtailed and recast. Much that has been needlessly introduced might with advantage be left out. The *Rajsabha* scene, for example, where the fatal chess-play takes place, need not Parliament-wise adjourn and re-meet over and over again and though giving occasion for introducing some sweet songs there is no reason why a lot of shepherd lads and lasses and nymphs termed *mayakanyas* should be needlessly introduced in three separate scenes by themselves. It would be a gain, on the whole, if some standard play of acknowledged superiority were chosen for the occasion. It is, we are inclined to tlink, a mistake to amalgamate a playwright's and an actor's vocation in these days of mediocrity, unless there is exceptional ability to plead. Babu Kedarnath Chowdhury, the Director and Manager, is himself a retired actor of great ability and experience, and is sure to take our suggestions in the spirit they are made. With judicious selection of the peices to be put on board and a more careful training of his company, he may shortly achieve results quite commensurate with the princely resources at his disposal. The grounds of the theatre are in course of improvement, which when completed will further add to the attractiveness of the place. Owing to a great rush

of people there was some slight disturbance on the opening night, but the play was repeated without any hitch on the following night as well as on Saturday and Sunday last. The management would do well to insist on stricter discipline among the ushers and door-keepers. The Orchestra also needs improvement.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION AND WASTING DISEASES.—Dr. Henry Hanks, author of "Consumption its Treatment and Curability," writes —"The superior efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil over the Pale Cod Liver Oil has proved in my experience, unequivocal. Patients who have persisted for several months in use of the latter, with scarcely any perceptible improvement, have after a brief trail of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, acquired such fatness, and those distressing symptoms accompanying emaciation have so rapidly subsided, that I have been induced to confide in its reputed remedial powers, and consequently to advice its substitution for the Pale Cod Liver Oil." Benjamin Clarke, Esq., M. R. C. S., F L. S., auther of "Notes and Suggestions on Cod Liver Oil and its Use," writes —"The effect of the Pale Oil on the circulation is so feebly marked as not to be perceptible; so that in some cases of extreme debility, the patient, from the slowness of its action, is in danger of sinking from exhaustion, or the disease, as in consumption, may become incurable from protraction. My inference agrees with remark that Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Oil effects a cure in half the time that the Pale Oil does." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts by all chemists druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the following books and pamphlets:

1. Annual Vacination Report of Assam, for 1886-87.
2. Punjab Police Administrative Report, for 1886-87.
3. Trade and Navigation of British India with Foreign countries.
4. Concord, August 1887.
5. Jubilee Panjika, for 1887.
6. Life and Teachings of Keshub Chunder Sen, by P. C. Mozoomdar.
7. Persian Gulf Administration Report 1886-87.
8. Assam Sanitary Report, for 1886.
9. The Criminal Justice Report of Lower Burma, for 1886.
10. Voice of India, October 1887.
11. Theosophist, October 1887.
12. Trade Accounts with foreign countries, for April and May, 1887.
13. Indian Telegraph Guide, October 1887.
14. Assam Excise Report, for 1886-87.
15. Report on the Administration of the Persian Gulf Political Residency, for 1886-87.

Advertisements.

THE TARKESSUR RAILWAY COMPANY LD
NOTICE

A Dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. for the half year ending 30th June 1887 has been declared this day and will be paid to the share-holders on and from the 13th instant on presentation of scrip at the Office of the undersigned.

HOAR MILLER & Co.
Managing Agents.

No. 38 strand.
Calcutta 12th October 1887. 171

NOTICE.

THE undermentioned lots of the Dhurrumtollah Market, the poperty of the Commissioners for the Town of Calcutta, will be put up for sale by public auction, if not previously disposed of, at the Municipal Office, on Monday, the 7th November 1887, at noon :—

Lot No.	Nature of existing Superstructure.	Area of superstructure in s. ft.	Area of land in the lot.	Estimated monthly rental.	Total rent of each lot.
			B. C. Ch. S. ft.	R. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
1	Upper-roomed house, upper-flat occupied by Hotel d'Europe...	4,932	... ...	400 0 0	
„	Do. lower-flat occupied by 7 shops Chowringhee Road	.....	... ...	225 8 0	
„	Upper-roomed house, 3 upper-rooms occupied by Hotel d'Europe ...	3,375	1 2 14 8	25 0 0	930 3 0
„	Lower-flat, 15 rooms	...	... ...	197 3 0	
„	Do. 2 gates	.....	... ...	36 0 0	
„	Do. 6 squatters at 0-0-6 each per day	.....	... ...	2 13 0	
„	¾ portion of corrugated shed occupied by Parsee Theatre	7,038	... ...	43 11 0	
2	Upper-roomed house, upper-flat	...	... ...	60 0 0	
„	Lower-flat occupied by 8 shops	...	... ...	140 0 0	
„	Ditto 8 „ east of above ...	3,577	0 10 8 40	42 8 0	
„	Ditto 1 verandah ...	...	... ...	16 0 0	294 14
„	Ditto half of gate ...	...		7 0 0	
„	About ¾ of corrugated shed occupied by Parsee Theatre	2,890	... ...	29 2 0	
3	Lower-roomed house, 4 shops with 5 back rooms	3,010	0 9 6 15	183 13 9	
„	Ditto ½ of gate ...	...		7 0 0	210 13 9
„	About ¼ of the Printing Office ...	2,646	... ...	20 0 0	
4	Upper-roomed house, occupied by Mr. Thompson	2,150	... ...	121 12 0	
„	Ditto 2 back rooms ...		0 5 9 37	12 0 0	179 12 0
„	Ditto ½ of gate	...	... ...	6 0 0	
„	One large shed	1,647	... ...	40 0 0	
5	Lower-roomed house, 1 shop occupied by Sen Brothers	2,646	... ...	110 10 0	
„	Ditto 2 back rooms ...	...	0 7 13 10	8 0 0	169 10 0
„	Ditto 16 do. at Rs. 3 each	2,209	... ...	48 0 0	
6	Lower-roomed house, 2 chandnies ...	3,748	... ...	65 0 0	
„	Ditto 18 rooms at Rs. 3 each ...	...	0 12 10 6	54 0 0	131 0 0
„	Ditto 1 room ...	2,224	... ..	12 0 0	
7	About ¾ of the Printing Office*	6,439	0 9 9 16	60 0 0	60 0 0
8	„ ⅜ of the corrugated shed occupied by Parsee Theatre	6,670	0 9 4 10	43 11 0	43 11 0
9	Lower-roomed house, 2 rooms on Dhurrumtollah Street	3,133	... ...	... ...	
„	Ditto 27 shops along the new road		0 5 5 28	17 8 0	185 5 6
			... ...	167 13 6	
10	Lower-roomed house, 9 shops at Rs. 10 each ...	1,653	0 2 4 33	90 0 0	90 0 0
11	Ditto 4 „ at Rs. 4 each ...	1,653	0 2 4 33	16 0 0	66 0 0
„	Ditto 5 „ at Rs. 10 each ...			50 0 0	
12	Lower-roomed house, 10 shops	1,734	0 2 5 39	35 10 0	35 10 0
13	Lower-roomed house, 11 shops	1,890	0 3 3 37	42 3 0	45 3 0
„	ortion of occupied land about 442 s. ft. ...			3 0 0	
14	Lower-roomed building 1 shed	5,705	0 10 1 5	28 0 0	86 1 6
„	Ditto 18 compartments ...			58 1 6	
15	Ditto 1 shed	3,750	0 8 4 0	27 10 2	36 4 0
„	A portion of occupied land about 1,680 s. ft. ...			8 8 0	
16	Pent-roofed building	2,400	0 6 9 21	40 0 0	44 0 0
„	A portion of tenanted land about 877 s. ft. ...			4 0 0	
17	Tenanted land	...	0 9 4 9	40 0 0	40 0 0
18	Lower-roomed house 7 shops	...	0 10 0 24	17 0 0	74 0 0
„	Tenanted land	...		57 0 0	
19	Lower-roomed house 5 shops	...	0 9 9 12	45 6 0	80 6 0
„	Ditto 1 stable and a room ...	..		10 0 0	
„	Tenanted land	...		25 0 0	
20	Do.	...	0 10 10 38	45 0 0	45 0 0
21	Lower-roomed building	546	0 2 10	24 0 0	30 0 0
„	Tenanted land			6 0 0	
22	Do.	.....	0 2 10 0	7 8 0	7 8 0

* The Sale of lot no. 7 is uncertan.

CONDITION OF SALE.

1. The Commissioners' limit which has been fixed by a Special Committee appointed for the purpose, will be kept in a closed cover by the Chairman, and the highest bidder above this limlt, is to be the purchaser; if any dispute arise as to the last or highest bidding for the lot, the same shall be put up again and resold.

2. A deposit of 25 per cent on the amount of the purchase-money is to be made by the purchaser immediatly upon the lot being knocked down, and in default thereof, the premises to be immediatly put up and at the risk of the purchaser.

3. The title to the property will be a conveyance from the Commissioners.

4. The residue of the purchase-money shall be paid within 15 days of the date of sale and in case of default in payment of such residue, the purchaser shall forfeit his deposit, which shall be received and taken as and by way of liquidated damages, the sale to such purchaser shall be wholly at an end, and the Commissioners shall be at liberty to resell the same without any reference to such first purchaser, but at his risk.

5. The Commissioners will, if required, furnish a deal of co nveyance, such conveyance being prepared by the Solicitors of the Corporation at the expense of the pur chaser, who will likewise have to bear the cost of the stamp duty and registration and of any attested copied of deeds or covenants to produce those that may be required.

6. The Commissioners will enter into no other convenant than that they have done no act to encumber.

7. A lithographed plan of the Market, divided into the lots notified for sale, may be had at the Municipal Office, from the undersigned, on payment of eight annas.

R. TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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IMPORTANT SALE OF LANDED PROPERTY.

There will be an important sale of landed property belonging to the Estate of the Raja of Deo at the office of the Collector of Gya at 1 P. M. on the 11th November 1887. The sale will take place under the provisions of the Chota-Nagpore Encumbered Estates Act. For particulars apply to the Collector of Gya or to the Manager of Deo Estate. 169

NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

It having come to my knowledge that bandy Coolies are fitting up Gas-pipes in Bazar shops and other places, and authorised native Gasfitters are giving them the protection of their good name for the sake of 8 annas, this is to intimate to such authorised Gas-fitters that on the first case proved from this date, the name or names shall be erased from the list of Gas-fitters. I beg also to intimate that we shall refuse to give gas to any place. unless it is fitted up by an authorised Gas-fitter.

Sd. D. COATS NIVEN
Engineer & Manager.
Gas Works, Sealdah, Calcutta.
12th October 1887.

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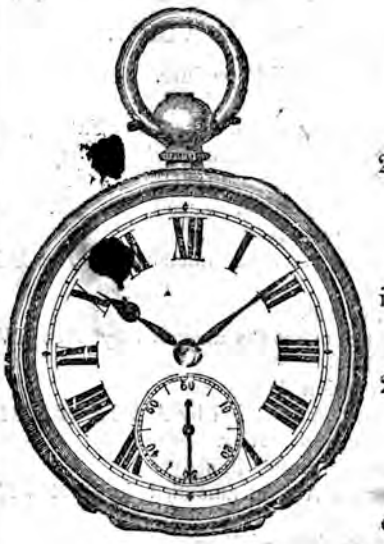

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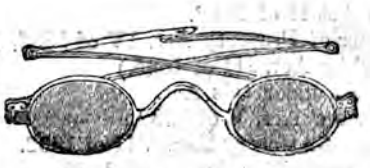

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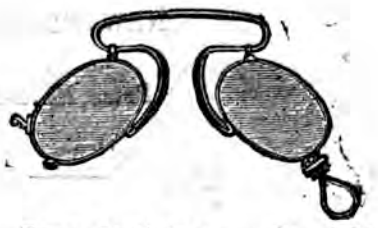

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